

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2011-24450
Issue No.: 5018
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 16, 2011
DHS County: Wayne (82-73)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen M. Mamelka

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from Detroit, Michigan, on Monday, May 16, 2011. The Claimant appeared and testified. [REDACTED] appeared on behalf of the Department of Human Services ("Department").

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly denied the Claimant's State Emergency Relief ("SER") application?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The Claimant submitted a SER application seeking assistance with his past-due mortgage payments on January 19, 2011.
2. The Claimant submitted a copy of his mortgage statement showing an accrued past-due payment amount of \$3,566.31. (Exhibit 1)
3. The Claimant's home was not in foreclosure.
4. On January 22, 2011, the Department notified the Claimant of the denial of his SER application.

5. On February 22, 2011, the Department received the Claimant's timely written request for hearing. (Exhibit 2)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The SER program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and by final administrative rules filed with the Secretary of State on October 28, 1993. MAC R 400.7001-400-7049. The Department's (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) policies are found in the Emergency Relief Manual ("ERM").

SER prevents serious harm to individuals and families by assisting applicants with safe, decent, affordable housing and other essential needs when an emergency situation arises. ERM 101. All countable earned and unearned income is used to determine the group's financial eligibility. ERM 206. SER helps to prevent the loss of a home if no other resources are available and the home provides self shelter for the SER group in the foreseeable future. ERM 304. Payments are only issued to save a home threatened with loss due to mortgage foreclosure, land contract forfeiture, tax foreclosure or sale, court ordered eviction of a mobile home from land or a mobile home park, or repossession for failure to meet an installment loan payment for a mobile home. ERM 304. The lifetime home ownership services maximum is \$2,000.00. ERM 304.

In this case, the Claimant completed an SER application seeking assistance with his past-due mortgage payments. The home was not, at this point, in foreclosure. In light of the foregoing, the Department properly denied the Claimant's SER application. Accordingly, the Department's actions are upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law finds the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed and denied the Claimant's SER application.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED:

The Department's determination is AFFIRMED.



Colleen M. Mamelka
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 17, 2011

2011-24450/CMM

Date Mailed: May 18, 2011

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

CMM/pf

cc:

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the names and email addresses of the recipients listed in the 'cc:' field.